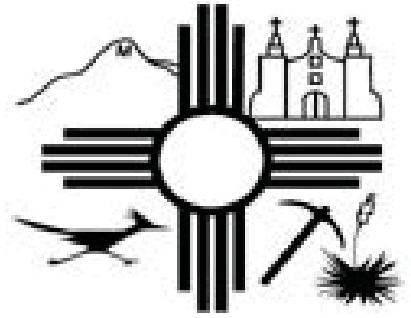


City of Socorro

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Work Continues on Socorro Veterans' Park

For years the area in front of the Courthouse has been a gathering place. At one time people who were awaiting their court appearance would camp there. Vendors set up their stalls there. Ash from fire pits was found in a recent excavation.

In 1967 the area was transformed into a park honoring Isidro Baca, the first Socorroan to lose his life in the line of duty in the war in Viet Nam. The Marine Pfc. was 19 years old when he was killed on August 21, 1967. The names of 5 more servicemen were added to the dedication plaque, and the plaque was installed on a pyramid when the park was renovated in 1992. The new monument was planned by a group of local veterans led by Leonard Clapes, and was funded by local citizens and businesses.

Now the park is changing again. "When it's finished, it will have a mall memorial feel to it," said County Manager Delilah Walsh in describing the renovation.

The City and County are collaborating on the project, using money from the State, labor from the City, and donations from local citizens and businesses.

The new concept calls for an arch at the north end entryway. Visitors will first encounter the artillery and

pyramid monument which have long been a part of the park. These will be flanked by 12 concrete memorials on either side of the park, 2 for each branch of the service, one for the Bataan memorial, and one yet

to be determined. There also will be flags, concrete bancos (benches), and a playground.

Park Superintendent Lloyd Martinez expects to have the electrical, irrigation, and curb and sidewalk work completed soon, as well as some landscaping. Donors have given money for the new bancos, but the county is still seeking funding to complete the memorials and the playground.

If you would like to donate to the memorials, contact the County Manager's office at 575-835-0589.



City workers Peter Maldonado and Earl Monte prepare the ground for new curbs and sidewalks.

Holiday Lights and Music on the Plaza

Friday night, December 3, the Christmas tree will be lit at 6:00 pm, Santa will pay a visit, and the Plaza will be ablaze with hundreds of luminarias. Come stroll among the shops, see works by members of Socorro County Arts and enjoy refreshments from 5:30 to 8:00 pm.

City Council

Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez
Gordy Hicks
Donald Monette
Ernest Pargas, Jr.
Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

Nick Fleming
Toby Jaramillo
Michael Olguin, Jr.
Peter D. Romero
Pat Salome, Clerk

Employee Anniversaries

Paula Mertz

20 years